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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/033,127	10/22/2001	Wolfgang Schonberger	A-2986	7101
24131	7590	03/30/2006	EXAMINER	
LERNER GREENBERG STEMER LLP			HINZE, LEO T	
P O BOX 2480			ART UNIT	
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480			PAPER NUMBER	
			2854	

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

BJC

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/033,127	Applicant(s) SCHONBERGER, WOLFGANG	
	Examiner Leo T. Hinze	Art Unit 2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5, 7, 10 and 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5, 7, 10 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konrad et al., US 20020014171 A1 (hereinafter Konrad) in view of Dini, US 3,964,386 (hereinafter Dini).

a. Regarding claims 10 and 12:

Konrad teaches a printing press, comprising a zone-less inking unit ("no inking zones," ¶ 17) including an ink-metering device having a single metering element (1, Fig. 5) operatively engaging with a roller (3, Fig. 5), said roller being an ink form roller ("form cylinder 3," ¶ 46), said ink-metering device producing an ink pattern being even over a print width of said roller, a plurality of glazing rollers (5, 7, Fig. 5) disposed downline from said single metering element along a peripheral line of said roller, said glazing rollers having an elastomeric peripheral surface ("silicone rubber," ¶ 50), each of said glazing rollers being in rolling contact exclusively with said roller. Konrad teaches that it is desirable to have ink distributed evenly over the surface of the form cylinder (¶ 17).

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Konrad does not teach an oscillation device assigned to said single metering element for mounting said metering element so that it is oscillatable at a frequency within a range of 200 Hz to 10 kHz between an engaging position and a spaced-away position of said single metering element in which said single metering element is lifted to an outlet height of at least 20 micrometers and less than 40 micrometers from said roller.

Dini teaches a method and apparatus for removing surplus ink on printing cylinders, including an oscillation device assigned to said single metering element (4, 5, 6, Fig. 1) for mounting said metering element so that it is oscillatable at a frequency within a range of 200 Hz to 10 kHz ("5 to 200 kHz," col. 2, l. 46) between an engaging position and a spaced-away position of said single metering element in which said single metering element is lifted to an outlet height of at least 20 micrometers and less than 40 micrometers from said roller ("5 to 30 μ ," col. 2, l. 53; roller 12, Fig. 4). Dini teaches that such an arrangement is advantageous for controlling the thickness of a liquid layer applied to a surface (col. 4, ll. 62-65) and for eliminating inconsistency of tone reproduction of printings (col. 1, ll. 45-46).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Konrad to include an oscillation device assigned to said single metering element for mounting said metering element so that it is oscillatable at a frequency within a range of 200 Hz to 10 kHz between an engaging position and a spaced-away position of said single metering element in which said single metering element is lifted to an outlet height of at least 20 micrometers and less than 40 micrometers from said roller, because Dini teaches that

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such an oscillatable metering element is advantageous for controlling the thickness of a liquid layer applied to a surface and for eliminating inconsistency of tone reproduction of printings.

b. Regarding claim 2, the combination of Konrad and Dini teaches all that is claimed as discussed in the rejection of claim 10 above. Dini, as properly combined with Konrad above, also teaches said roller has a radial direction (12, Fig. 4); and said oscillation device has a guide guiding said single metering element in an oscillation direction (A, Fig. 4) deviation in a range from 0° to 20° in said radial direction of said roller (α , Fig. 4).

c. Regarding claim 3, the combination of Konrad and Dini teaches all that is claimed as discussed in the rejection of claim 10 above. Dini, as properly combined with Konrad above, also teaches wherein said oscillation device has an electromagnetic oscillation drive ("electromagnetic," col. 3, l. 19) drivingly connected to said single metering element.

d. Regarding claim 5, the combination of Konrad and Dini teaches all that is claimed as discussed in the rejection of claim 10 above. Dini, as properly combined with Konrad above, also teaches wherein said single metering element is a metering blade having a working region terminating in a cutting edge, said working region of said metering blade having a cross-section thickness which remains constant ("may in cross-section be square," col. 3, l. 49).

e. Regarding claim 7, the combination of Konrad and Dini teaches all that is claimed as discussed in the rejection of claim 10 above. Konrad also teaches an ink feeding device (1, Fig. 1) disposed upline of said metering element alongside a peripheral line of said roller.

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3. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konrad in view of Dini as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Jeschke et al., US 4,089,264 (hereinafter Jeschke).

The combination of Konrad and Dini teaches all that is claimed as discussed in the rejection of claim 10 above.

The combination of Konrad and Dini does not teach wherein said oscillation device has a spring for setting said single metering element against said roller.

Jeschke teaches an electromagnetically actuated oscillating element (6, Fig. 1) that is set against a roller (2, Fig. 1) by a spring (15, Fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify Konrad to include a spring for setting said single metering element against said roller as taught by Jeschke, because a person having ordinary skill in the art would recognize that a spring would cause the default position of the metering element to be one of contact with the roller, which would advantageously prevent wasting ink in the event that the machine was operating but the oscillation mechanism had otherwise failed.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-5, 7, 10 and 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

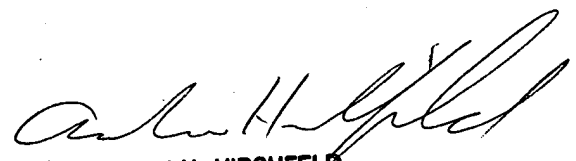
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leo T. Hinze whose telephone number is (571) 272-2167. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Leo T. Hinze
Patent Examiner
AU 2854
24 March 2006


ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800